

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 00706 251053Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 250925Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5270

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T TEHRAN 0706

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: SHAH'S CONCERNS ABOUT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR SAW MINISTER OF COURT ALAM EVENING
OF JANUARY 24 TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE VISIT OF MAURITANIA
SPECIAL ENVOY OULDGIDO'S VISIT (SEPTEL), ALAM SAID THAT THE

SHAH HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO ASK US ABOUT THE RECENT VISIT OF
GENERAL GIAP TO ALGERIA, WHY HAD HE GONE THERE, AND WHAT
WAS HE UP TO. FURTHER, HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT THE SOVIETS
WERE UP TO IN ETHIOPIA. HE SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR WHAT THEY
WERE UP TO IN ANGOLA AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT THEY HAD ESTAB-
LISHED THEIR INFLUENCE IN SOMALIA. IN THE
SHAH'S VIEW, DJIBOUTI WOULD ALSO FALL UNDER THE INFLUENCE
OF SOMALIA AND INDIRECTLY UNDER SOVIET INFLUENCE ONCE IT
BECAME INDEPENDENT. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SOMUETS SEEMED
TO BE DRAWING A CIRCLE AROUND AFRICA. BECAUSE OF REDUCED
OIL LIFTINGS AND THE EVER-EXCALATING COSTS OF US ARMS, IRAN
NOW FINDS ITSELF UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THESE
DEVELOPMENTS. IT MUST FOREGO ITS PLANS TO BE A
STABILIZING INFLUENCE BEYOND ITS OWN BORDERS, FORGET THE
IDEA OF ESTABLISHING A PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, OR
SHOWING THE FLAG ALONG THE EASTERN AFRICAN COAST. THE

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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 00706 251053Z

SHAH WONDERS WHETHER THE US HAS CONSIDERED THE CONSE-

QUENCES OF A "WEAKENED IRAN" UNABLE TO HELP DETER THE EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA AND THE INDIAN OCEAN.

2. ACCORDING TO ALAM, THE SHAH ASKED THAT AMBASSADOR TAKE UP THESE QUESTIONS DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

3. ALAM CALLED CHARGE MORNING OF JANUARY 25 TO SAY THAT THE SHAH HAD AN ADDITIONAL QUESTION HE WISHED OUR EVALUATION ON, CONCERNING THE CUBAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH YEMEN. HE SAID CUBA'S PRESNECE NOW AMOUNTS TO 4,000 AND IS A THREAT OF GROWING CONCERN TO SULTAN QABUS AND SAUDI ARABIA. NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT IS ALSO OF MAJOR CONCERN TO IRAN, GIVEN ITS ROLE IN OMAN AND CONTINUED PRESENCE THERE.

MIKLOS

SECRET

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